

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

MITCHELL KEITH GOODRUM,

Case No.: 3:24-cv-00007-ART-CSD

Plaintiff

Order

v.

Re: ECF No. 4

KENNETH PEELE INVESTIGATIONS, et
al.,

Defendants

Plaintiff is an inmate in the custody of the Nevada Department of Corrections, and he has filed a pro se civil rights complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. (ECF No. 1-1.)

The Local Rules of Practice for the District of Nevada provide: “Any person who is unable to prepay the fees in a civil case may apply to the court for authority to proceed *in forma pauperis* (IFP). The application must be made on the form provided by the court and must include a financial affidavit disclosing the applicant’s income, assets, and liabilities.” LSR 1-1. When a prisoner seeks to proceed without prepaying the filing fee, in addition to filing the affidavit, the prisoner is required to submit a certified copy of the trust fund account statement (or institutional equivalent) for the six-month period immediately preceding the filing of the complaint. The statement must be obtained from the appropriate official at the prison or detention facility where the prisoner is or was confined. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2).

When a prisoner brings a civil action IFP, the prisoner is still required to pay the full amount of the filing fee. The court is required to assess, and when funds exist, collect an initial partial payment of 20 percent of the greater of: (A) the average monthly deposits in the prisoner’s account or (B) the average monthly balance in the prisoner’s account for the six-

1 month period immediately preceding the filing of the complaint. Thereafter, whenever the
2 prisoner's account exceeds \$10, the prisoner must make monthly payments of 20 percent of the
3 preceding month's income credited to the prisoner's account until the filing fees are paid. The
4 funds are to be forwarded by the agency having custody of the prisoner. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1),
5 (2).

6 For actions filed on or after December 1, 2023, the filing fee is \$405 (the \$350 filing fee
7 and \$55 administrative fee). If an inmate does not qualify for IFP status, he must pay the full
8 \$405 filing fee. If the inmate qualifies for IFP status, the \$55 administrative fee is waived, and
9 the inmate will only pay the \$350 filing fee over time.

10 Plaintiff's complaint was not accompanied by an IFP application and the required
11 documents for an inmate. On January 4, 2024, the court gave Plaintiff 30 days to file a completed
12 IFP application for an inmate, including the signed financial certificate and a copy of his trust
13 fund account statement for the *previous six-month period*. (ECF No. 3.) On February 6, 2024,
14 Plaintiff filed an IFP application for an inmate. The financial certificate is dated August 26,
15 2023, and the trust fund account statement reflects balances from April 26, 2023, through July
16 2023, which is not the previous six months. The caption for the IFP application is also incorrect.
17 Therefore, the IFP application (ECF No. 4) will be denied without prejudice. Plaintiff will be
18 given one final opportunity to file a completed IFP application for an inmate with the required
19 information, including the appropriate trust fund account statement reflecting balances for the
20 past six months.

21 CONCLUSION

22 Plaintiff's incomplete IFP application (ECF No. 4) is **DENIED WITHOUT**
23 **PREJUDICE.**

1 The Clerk shall **SEND** Plaintiff a copy of the instructions and application to proceed IFP
 2 for an inmate. Plaintiff has **30 days** from the date of this Order to either file his completed IFP
 3 application or pay the full \$405 filing fee. The application must be accompanied by all of the
 4 required documents, including:

5 (a) the completed **application to proceed IFP for an inmate** on the court's
 6 approved form (i.e., pages 1-3 with the inmate's two signatures on page 3);

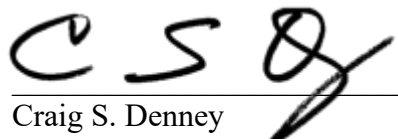
7 (b) a **financial certificate** properly signed by both the inmate and a prison or jail
 8 official (i.e., page 4 of the court's approved form); and

9 (c) a copy of the inmate's prison or jail **trust fund account statement for the**
 10 **previous six-month period.**

11 Once Plaintiff has filed his completed IFP application and financial certificate or paid the
 12 filing fee, the court will screen the complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B) or 28 U.S.C.
 13 § 1915A, or both. Both require dismissal of a complaint, or any portion thereof, that is frivolous
 14 or malicious, fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks monetary relief
 15 against a defendant who is immune from such relief. If the complaint is dismissed on screening,
 16 there will be no refund of the filing fee, and an inmate proceeding IFP is still required to pay the
 17 \$350 filing fee over time. If Plaintiff fails to timely file a completed IFP application, financial
 18 certificate and trust fund accounts statement reflecting balances for the past six months or pay
 19 the filing fee, the court will recommend dismissal of this action without prejudice.

20 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

21 Dated: April 9, 2024

22 
 23 Craig S. Denney
 United States Magistrate Judge